

Madam Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues in congratulating Brenda D. Williams on her retirement and wish her continued happiness in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, November 2, 2009 and Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Had I been present on Monday, November 2, 2009, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 832 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1168), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 833 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 291), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 834 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 509).

Had I been present on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 835 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3949), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 836 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 398), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 837 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 866), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 838 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 867), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 839 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3157), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 840 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 736).

ANN EVANS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Ann Evans for her outstanding service to our community.

Ann Evans exhibits a rare combination of drive, leadership, compassion and generosity. She is a nursing professional with extensive experience in both classroom and hospital settings and is committed to ensuring safe, high quality delivery of care in our community. Ann Evans has worked hard to improve patient care at Lutheran by incorporating a cultural belief model as a foundation for improving patient satisfaction. She has been recognized professionally for her efforts by the American Heart Association and is a fellow of both the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Nursing.

In her dedication to furthering women's issues, Ann introduced a program called Inspire to Jefferson County which focuses on non-traditional approaches which encourage women to practice self care and preventative care. She also introduced the Daisy award, a monthly patient-nominated award for exceptional nurses, and provided the lead gift to the Friends of Nursing Fund dedicated to the advancement of nursing excellence in the community.

In addition to her work in healthcare, Ann Evans serves as Board secretary/treasurer of

The Cloud Foundation, a group which focuses on the preservation of wild horses on public lands. She served on the Jefferson County Symphony Board of Directors, has been appointed to the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence and the Daisy Foundation's Board of Directors, and has served on the Board and as President of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Ann Evans for her recognition by the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE PICKERING TREATY IN CANANDAIGUA, NY

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the longest standing unbroken treaty between the United States government and a sovereign Native People. This Wednesday, the 11th of November, will mark the two hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Pickering Treaty in Canandaigua, New York, the treaty which established peace between the people of the Iroquois Confederacy and the United States of America.

Timothy Pickering, representing President George Washington on that historic day in Canandaigua, along with the leaders of the Iroquois Nation, signed the treaty which established peace and friendship on the western frontier of New York while securing lands in New York State for the Iroquois Confederacy. The treaty was signed into law by President Washington in January of 1795, following its ratification by the United States Senate in Philadelphia.

As a veteran, I note the appropriateness of this anniversary falling on Veterans Day. It is significant that Native Americans join the U.S. Armed Forces at a higher per capita rate than members of any other group in our country and have established a record of bravery under fire that stands as a monument to courage and national service. The service of our veterans, regardless of race or ethnicity, all sacrifice for what this treaty has stood for over two hundred years: Peace between peoples, cooperation between neighbors, and friendship among nations.

I stand today to remind this storied chamber that while the bonds of friendship that embody this treaty have been strained, they have never broken. It is an imperative that we, as Americans, keep and celebrate the promises that we make to other nations and that we always recognize the importance of our word. No other treaty signifies this sacred obligation more than the Treaty of Canandaigua.

RECOGNIZING THE HARLEM COUNCIL OF ELDERLY, INC., SALUTE TO EGYPTOLOGIST DR. YOSEF A.A. BEN-JOCHANNAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pride to join New York Democratic County Leader Keith L.T. Wright and the Harlem Council of Elders to pay tribute to Egyptologist and Pan-Africanist, Dr. Yosef A.A. Ben-Jochannan (Dr. Ben), Harlem's internationally renowned historian and educator of the African Diaspora.

In 1918, Dr. Yosef A.A. Ben-Jochannan, affectionately known as Dr. Ben was born in Gondar, Ethiopia to Krstan ben Jochannan, a lawyer and diplomat, and Tulia Matta, a native of Puerto Rico, who was a homemaker and midwife. Dr. Ben's parents were both of the Jewish faith. His father was a member of the "Falasha," or Beta Israel, and his mother was a descendent of Spanish Sephardic Jews. Krstan ben and Tulia met in Madrid, Spain, where she was attending college and he was working as a diplomatic attaché. Soon after their marriage, they traveled from Spain to Ethiopia where their son, Yosef, was born.

In Ethiopia, he spent the first five years of his life, later on moving to the Americas. He said in later interviews that, in the 1920s, the Ethiopian government sent his father to Brazil to help develop its coffee trade. They lived for about a year in Rio de Janeiro before a 1928 coup in Ethiopia saw the overthrow of Emperor Zauditu and the consolidation of power under Emperor Haile Selassie. After the change in political leadership, the family decided not to return to Ethiopia but instead settled permanently in Puerto Rico. Yosef was raised primarily in the town of Fajardo, located on the eastern side of Puerto Rico, and the nearby islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas, where his mother had relatives. He was thus fluent in Spanish and English from an early age.

Dr. Ben attended the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, where he first studied law, but later switched to civil engineering. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1939. In his senior year of college Dr. Ben wrote and self-published a booklet titled *Nosotros los Hebreos Negros* (We the Black Hebrews) about his experience growing up black and Jewish on a predominately Catholic island where at the time people of African ancestry were commonly viewed as inferior. Dr. Ben's father was fluent in several languages and often spoke with his son about the significance of Ethiopia's ancient past. However, at school and in the community, he frequently heard the view that Africa was a backward and wretched continent. In response to this, his father sent him to visit his grandparents in Ethiopia, where he stayed for several months. To get there, Dr. Ben traveled by ship to Egypt, then took a train through that country to Ethiopia, and thus began his lifelong fascination with Africa's 4,000-mile-long Nile Valley.

Upon his return to Puerto Rico, he worked briefly as a lawyer and in 1941 moved to New York City with his maternal uncle, Casper Holstein, a self-made millionaire and philanthropist who had become rich from the Harlem